

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-18 under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Breeden in view of Van Iseghem et al.

Applicants have amended pending claim 1 to clarify that the invention is directed to providing a photosensitive film, the film comprising at least one layer containing a photosensitive material; selectively exposing at least a portion of the photosensitive material of the film; removing a portion of the layer containing the photosensitive material, the removed portion corresponding to either the exposed or unexposed portion of the photosensitive material, to form a relief surface in the film *configured for receiving a casting material without further etching*; and applying a casting material to the relief surface to form a cast article; wherein the photosensitive layer comprises less than 75% by weight of a water soluble, photosensitive vinyl polymer having pendent hydroxyl groups and being capable of photo-generated insolubility and less than 75 weight percent of a polymeric film-forming binder.

Applicants respectfully disagree that Breeden, alone or in combination with Van Iseghem, makes obvious the claimed invention. In particular, Applicants note that Breeden requires chemical etching to form the finished pattern or master. In contrast, no chemical etching is needed in accordance with the present invention because the removal of a portion of the photosensitive layer creates a relief film without further etching. Thus, the present invention is believed to be patentably distinct over the art of record.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution

of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.



Respectfully submitted,

Alexander S. Gybin and Toshifumi Komatsu,

By their Attorneys,

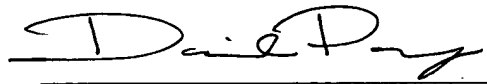
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